

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 100

April 23, 1998, 2:50 pm
Page S-3493 Temp. Record

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS/After-School Programs

SUBJECT: Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools . . . H.R. 2646. Boxer amendment No. 2306.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 49-51

SYNOPSIS: As amended, H.R. 2646, the Parent and Student Savings Account PLUS Act, will enact the compromise provisions of S. 1133, as reported, on education savings accounts and other education initiatives. It will expand the recently enacted education savings account tax credit, will provide an exclusion from gross income for distributions from qualified State tuition programs, will extend and expand the current-law section 127 tax exclusion (for employer-provided education assistance), and will assist local governments in issuing bonds for school construction by increasing the small-issuer bond exemption. The bill will also enact a proposal to give school construction aid to high growth districts. In total, approximately \$6 billion in tax relief for education over the next 10 years will be provided. That cost will be more than fully offset by modifying the employer deduction for vacation pay and by changing the treatment of the foreign tax credit carryback and carryforward periods (for increased revenues of \$6.9 billion over 10 years). The education tax credit will be expanded by increasing the annual contribution limit for education IRAs from \$500 to \$2,000 for taxable years 1999 through 2002 and by changing the definition of qualified education expenses to include kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) expenses (the credit currently applies only to higher education expenses).

The Boxer amendment would add a section to authorize a new after-school program. Schools would be eligible for funding if they started at least two of the following after-school activities: mentoring; academic assistance; recreational activities; or technology training. Schools could also use funds for the following activities: drug, alcohol, and gang prevention; health and nutrition counseling; or job skills preparation. Programs would be in school buildings or other public buildings. Public schools desiring funding would submit grant requests. The Department of Education, under the Clinton Administration, would have total discretion in deciding which schools would get grants. The amendment would authorize \$50 million to be appropriated for the program for each of fiscal years 1998-2002. Finally, the amendment would express the sense of the Senate that the cost of the program would be paid for by making unspecified cuts in the "allowances" budget function.

(See other side)

YEAS (49)			NAYS (51)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (4 or 7%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (51 or 93%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Bond	Akaka	Johnson	Abraham	Hutchinson		
D'Amato	Baucus	Kennedy	Allard	Hutchison		
Snowe	Biden	Kerrey	Ashcroft	Inhofe		
Specter	Bingaman	Kerry	Bennett	Jeffords		
	Boxer	Kohl	Brownback	Kempthorne		
	Breaux	Landrieu	Burns	Kyl		
	Bryan	Lautenberg	Campbell	Lott		
	Bumpers	Leahy	Chafee	Lugar		
	Byrd	Levin	Coats	Mack		
	Cleland	Lieberman	Cochran	McCain		
	Conrad	Mikulski	Collins	McConnell		
	Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Coverdell	Murkowski		
	Dodd	Moynihan	Craig	Nickles		
	Dorgan	Murray	DeWine	Roberts		
	Durbin	Reed	Domenici	Roth		
	Feingold	Reid	Enzi	Santorum		
	Feinstein	Robb	Faircloth	Sessions		
	Ford	Rockefeller	Frist	Shelby		
	Glenn	Sarbanes	Gorton	Smith, Bob		
	Graham	Torricelli	Gramm	Smith, Gordon		
	Harkin	Wellstone	Grams	Stevens		
	Hollings	Wyden	Grassley	Thomas		
	Inouye		Gregg	Thompson		
			Hagel	Thurmond		
			Hatch	Warner		
			Helms			

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports that juvenile crime goes up dramatically between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:00pm. During these hours, many children are out of school but their parents are still at work. Many of these unsupervised children have free time on their hands, and they end up joining gangs and getting into trouble. If we provide after-school programs for them to keep them busy they will stay out of trouble. To illustrate to our colleagues how this program would work, we have brought some pictures to the floor of after-school programs. Those pictures show the excited looks on the faces of California children who get to go to classes in the afternoon for more academic instruction. Other pictures show children playing musical instruments, and still others show them working with law enforcement officers. Police across the country volunteer for these types of programs because they know they work. They would much rather help children get ahead in life than have to arrest them for committing crimes that they would have avoided if they had not had so much free time on their hands. Our colleagues have refused to vote in favor of spending money to rebuild crumbling schools, to hire more teachers, or to give teachers needed training. We hope that they will at least see the value of keeping children busy so they stay out of trouble. We urge them to vote in favor of the Boxer amendment.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

We agree on the need for after-school programs, and we believe that the Federal Government should have a role. We add that it already does. For instance, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Act provides \$40 million for rural and inner-city schools to establish after-school programs. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act allows money to be spent on after-school programs with a drug and violence prevention component. The child care development block grant and the community development block grant also allow funding to be spent on after-school programs. We note also that we know of 19 Federal programs that have tutoring and mentoring components, including Learn and Serve, the Juvenile Justice Mentoring Program, CAMP, AmeriCorps, VISTA, and TRIO. In short, the Boxer amendment would create a brand new Federal program, with all of the associated administrative costs, just to reinvent the wheel. Rather than adding one more bureaucratic layer onto the maze of existing programs, we think it would make more sense to consolidate programs in order to coordinate efforts and distribute funds more efficiently. We admit that following that course would take bragging rights away from Senators for getting a new program through Congress, but it would be better for children because it would increase the amount of help they would get. We therefore urge our colleagues to reject this amendment.